

Pennsylvania



2017

The Keystone Dunmore Sanitary Landfill is one of the largest active landfills in the state. More than 2,000 people live within 500 feet of the active municipal solid waste collection site. The Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH) and ATSDR conducted a health consultation to see if exposure to air around the landfill poses a public health risk and if cancer incidence rates are increased among people living nearby. ATSDR came to numerous conclusions including that long-term exposures were not expected to cause cancer or other harmful non-cancer health effects but also that acute (short-term) exposure to some of the contaminants detected in ambient air near the landfill could have caused transitory health effects for sensitive populations, such as pregnant women, children, older adults and people with respiratory disease. ATSDR made numerous recommendations to mitigate the health risks at the site.